



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats

**Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking
Member**

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COMMITTEE'S FIRST RESPONDER BILL ON HOUSE FLOOR

May 12, 2005, Washington, DC— Today the House Committee on Homeland Security's first responder bill, H.R. 1544, "The Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responder's Act" was introduced on the House Floor. H.R. 1544 is supported by every major first responder organization.

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, stated, "**H.R. 1544 helps target funding to meet the essential needs of first responders in order to help them prevent, prepare for, and respond to acts of terrorism.**"

In addition to ensuring that first responders are fully funded, H.R. 1544 would make sure that the Department of Homeland Security would assess risk in all areas, regardless of what type of community.

"The current system for distributing funding to first responders is fundamentally broken and is not getting the funding where it needs to go in a timely fashion. H.R. 1544 would make certain that all communities whether urban, suburban or rural received adequate funding for first responders."

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